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Feds Expand PCB Probe



Congressman Bob Barr (foreground at left) toured the General Electric Medium Transformers Plant in Rome on Thursday looking in the situation of PCBs pollution at the plant and in other areas. At right is GE plant manager, Kevin Qualis / Rome News-Tribune

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For more in depth cove pick up today's Rome News-Tribun

Today's Young Artist



Today's artwork is by Krupa Patel, a fourth-grader at West Central Elementary

Els Leads at Tour Pack



Ernie Els watches his drive during the first round of The Tour Championship on

Dragons Roll Up



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TODAY'S WEATHER

Enter a City or US Zip:



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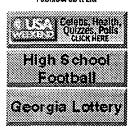


Subscriptions

Top Stories







Fight goes on - so do PCBs

By Jason Landers, Rome News-Tribune Staff Writer

In one respect they're on the same team: General Electric and government environmental regulator Both want out of the mess caused by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the closed GE plant in Rome. But when they talk cleanup, they sometimes speak in different tongues. In a meeting with th Rome News-Tribune, Stephen Ramsey, GE's vice president in charge of environmental programs, said contamination in Rome is light and GE Rome is "a very positive example of the regulated and regulator moving forward in the community." Government regulators familiar with the PCB contamination don't share that optimism. Describing Georgia's efforts to remedy the problem, Jennifer Kaduck said, "They (GE) certainly have fought us on it. I don't know if they will continue t or not. It's no secret in looking at the file that we have litigated with this company and taken enforcement action." Kaduck should know. She's chief of the Hazardous Waste Branch of the state Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

Feds expand PCB probe

By Jason Landers, Rome News-Tribune Staff Writer

The federal Environmental Protection Agency will further investigate PCB contamination at West Central Elementary School and other sites in Rome, a state official said Thursday. The statement



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Classifieds Subscriptions came at a meeting at the Rome General Electric Medium Transformers plant attended by U.S. Rep. Bob Barr, R-Smyrna, and representatives of the state Environmental Protection Division, Floyd County and GE. Detailed testing of the school, which shares a drainage ditch and boundary line wit the GE plant, will begin Nov. 13. During a recent EPA survey, polychlorinated biphenyls were detected in a remote location at a drainage ditch downstream from the GE plant on school property. The concentration of PCBs was 7.7 parts per million (ppm), which is three times higher than the st notification limit. If testing reveals further contamination, the state "will order a cleanup," said Jennifer Kaduck, chief of the EPD's Hazardous Waste Branch. Heavily contaminated commercial property southwest of the GE plant on Redmond Circle might soon get cleaned as well. "We are...contemplating now another enforcement order to include cleanup of the southwest area of the off-site property where there are thousands of parts per millions of PCBs," Kaduck said. "We have issued a total of four enforcement actions, and we're going to be doing another one to require clean of this (Redmond Circle properties) and to require further investigation of these creeks and embankments in the Coosa/ Oostanaula (rivers)."

Parties plan to flood state with their campaign efforts

By Dick Pettys, Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA - Bidding to boost turnout, Democrats, Republicans and interest groups across Georgi will flood voters with mass mailings and telephone calls over the campaign's last few days. Even th church may not be a sanctuary from political messages. Both major U.S. Senate candidates in Georgia, Democrat Zell Miller and Republican Mack Mattingly, plan barnstorming tours the day before the election. Miller will be joined by many of the state's top elected Democratic officials, ev though he has campaigned as a politician who will vote independently and not toe the party line. "Everybody knows that Zell Miller is a Democrat and we're proud of it," said spokesman Rick Den "But he is going to be the same kind of senator as he was a governor - doing what's best for the people of Georgia and not playing party games." Mattingly, who has been touring the state this wee on a bus with fellow Republican dignitaries, has attempted to depict Miller as a member of the sam "team" as Ted Kennedy and other Democratic liberals. Meanwhile, the Republican has made no attempt to distance himself from party politics. Rather, his challenge has been to remind voters that is a Republican. Party labels won't be displayed on the special election ballot. The race is for the remaining four years of the late Sen. Paul Coverdell's term. Miller, the state's former governor, was appointed to hold the seat until the election following Coverdell's death on July 18. The flurry of last-minute activity is all about firing up each party's voters. In a state where Republican presidenti nominee George W. Bush is likely to win easily, Democrats need a strong turnout to ensure that a GOP tide doesn't force Miller into a runoff in race or wipe out their majority in the state Legislature Republicans, meanwhile, hope to energize their voters to ensure a turnout that will give the Democrats a black eye. Democrats, indeed, may have some cause for concern, said Emory Univers political science professor Merle Black. "I think the Republican base in Georgia and across the So is much more enthusiastic about Bush than they were four years ago for Bob Dole ... And there's a little bit less enthusiasm for Al Gore among Democrats," he said. Both parties will keep mail carrie busy. John Kirinchich, the Democratic party's executive director, said 1 million fliers will begin reaching voters by the weekend. Telephone calls, some with recorded messages from President Clinton, also will go to Democratic voters. The Clinton calls were particularly effective in getting black voters to the polls in Georgia in 1998, Emory's Black said. Republicans are taking similar steps, including automated calls from Bush. "This is something we need to learn from Democrats," said Chuck Clay, the state GOP chairman. "The last 72 hours is where the swing votes really decid how they're going to vote, or if they vote at all. The stars are aligned as well as I have ever seen the for us. It will be squandered if we don't push right through election day to turn our vote out," Clay said. David Worley, the Democratic party chairman, said Democrats are seeking the same strong turnout they got two years ago. But the two parties aren't the only ones who will be busy this weekend. So, too, will be the Christian Coalition, which plans to distribute 1.1 million voter guides churches and through the mail. "We don't endorse," said Sadie Fields, the state chairman. "We put t issues out and let voters decide which person they want to support." Democrats have complained i the past that the group's voter guides generally favor conservative Republicans over moderate Democrats.

Annual business forum set

By John M. Willis, Rome News-Tribune Business Editor

The Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce's annual business EXPO opens at 10 a.m. Saturday at T Forum. This will be the 12th year EXPO has provided an opportunity for Northwest Georgians to learn more about the businesses in Rome and Floyd County, said Ernie Studard, a member of the chamber's Small Business Action Council, sponsor of the annual event. Approximately 100 companies, including retail, service, technology, information systems, healthcare and food will demonstrate, discuss and sell their products, Studard said. "EXPO continues to grow," said Al Hod chamber president and CEO. "We have a number of small businesses that were in last year's EXP that are returning, and we have several new businesses exhibiting with us for the first time." Hodge said several local companies will have information about job openings at the chamber booth. "This a great opportunity for small business to display and sell their products and services," Studard said. "It is also an enjoyable occasion for attendees to discover more about local businesses and the wide variety of products and services sold throughout our community. It is important to know that the fu raised from the EXPO exhibitors and sponsors is used to promote shopping in Rome so that money spent and taxes paid stay in our community." Hodge said those attending EXPO can start their Christmas shopping at the Retail Village, where chamber retailers will be selling their products. EXPO will open to the public 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, and noon-4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is for adults and free for children under 12.

Two-legged lizard a pioneer

By Paul Recer, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - The first known creature to walk upright on two feet was a speedy, long-legge lizard that scurried onto the scene some 80 million years before the dinosaur, a newly found fossil shows. The lizard, less than a foot long and weighing under a pound, was a plant-eating reptile that researchers believe used his speed and unique way of running to avoid the hungry meat-eaters that roamed the world 290 million years ago. Walking upright on two feet is an example of "repeated evolution," where a physical advantage evolves in different species at different times in history, sai Robert R. Reisz, a University of Toronto researcher and co-author of a study appearing Friday in th journal Science. Bipedalism developed independently in dinosaurs, which passed it on to birds, an then later it developed in mammals, said Reisz. "It was just such a good idea that it happened again and again," he said. "To find an example of an animal that did this before dinosaurs or mammals is particularly exciting." Remains of the lizard were found in a German quarry. It took researchers mo than two years to painstakingly remove the rock that encased the fragile, 10-inch-long fossil.

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